

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed July 19, 2004. Claims 1-18 and 20-52 are pending in the application. Claims 37-51 have been allowed. Claims 2-6, 10, and 14-18 have been amended. Claims 19-36 have been canceled. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action of all pending claims in view of the following remarks.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejects Claims 1, 7, 9, 14-18, 20-24, 26-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated over U.S. Pat. No. 6,614,781 to Elliott ("Elliott"). Applicants' amendments to the claims have rendered these rejections moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication in the Office Action that Claims 37-51 are allowed.

Claim Objections

Applicants further thank the Examiner for indicating that Claims 3-6 and 10-13 "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." Applicants have rewritten Claims 3-6 and 10 in independent form, which makes these claims, and the claims that now depend from these claims, allowable, including Claims 10-13. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants submitted an Information Disclosure Statement on April 22, 2004. Applicants did not receive a completely initialed form PTO-1449. In particular the documents corresponding to items P through U on that form were marked through. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner confirm consideration of all documents listed in the Information Disclosure Statement submitted April 22, 2004, by returning a completely initialed PTO-1449 form. A clean copy of the PTO Form 1449 and copies of the references corresponding to items P through U are provided for the convenience of the Examiner.

CONCLUSION

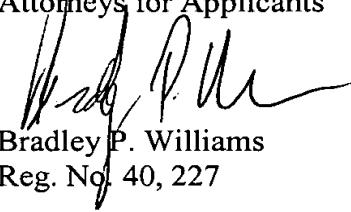
Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for immediate allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other apparent reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present Application may be advanced in any way by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at 214-953-6447.

Applicants enclose a check in the amount of \$88.00 as filing fees. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any extra fee or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorneys for Applicants



Bradley P. Williams
Reg. No. 40, 227

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Correspondence Address:

Customer Number: **05073**